

Guidelines for State-Recommended Early Childhood Curricular Resources: Infants and Toddlers (birth-3) and Comprehensive Curriculum 3, 4, and 5 year-olds

Guidelines

The evaluation processes for identifying state-recommended curricular resources for infants and toddlers (birth to age 3) and state-recommended comprehensive curricula (ages 3, 4 and 5) for reading/English language arts, mathematics, science, social studies, fine arts, physical education, health education, and the domain of personal and social development have been conducted by an evaluation committee organized by Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) Division of Early Childhood Development (DECD). The list of state-recommended infants and toddlers curricular resources that aligned with *Guidelines for the Healthy Development and Care of Young Children (birth -3)* can be located at http://www.marylandpublicschools.org/NR/rdonlyres/A7EA6261-E4F6-430C-9615-87A712323BC7/13128/GuidelinesCombinedDocument_Revised2007.doc . The matrix of state-recommended comprehensive curricula (ages 3, 4, and 5) that aligned with *Guidelines for the Healthy Development and Care of Young Children (age 3)* and with Maryland Model for School Readiness/ State Curriculum (ages 4 and 5) can be located at http://www.marylandpublicschools.org/MSDE/divisions/child_care/preschool_curriculum/overview .

Table 1

Program Options for Implementing a Curricular Resource for Infants and Toddlers and a Comprehensive Curriculum for 3, 4, and 5 year-olds		
State-Recommended Curriculum <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Implementation of a state-recommended curricular resource for infants and toddlers and/or a state-recommended comprehensive curriculum for ages 3, 4, 5 as applicable	Individually Developed Curriculum <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Implementation of a curriculum developed by the program and evaluated and accepted by MSDE	Local Education Board (LEA) Curriculum <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Implementation of the local school system's curriculum

Options for Implementing a State-Recommended Curricular Resource for Infants and Toddlers and/or a Comprehensive Curriculum for 3, 4, 5 Year-Olds

The requirement to choose one of these options in order to access state or federal funds became effective on July 1, 2009. Early childhood programs operated by local boards of education are not required to select from the state-recommended lists. Programs seeking to access state or federal funding through grants administered by the DECD have the following options for curriculum implementation:

- Implementing a State-Recommended Curricula: A program may select a state-recommended curricular resource for infants and toddlers (birth to 3) and/or a comprehensive curriculum for 3, 4, and/or 5 year-olds as applicable.

Curriculum selection decisions need to consider the continuity of learning between the various ages of the early childhood program being implemented. If a publisher/vendor has received state recommendation of its curriculum for 4 year-olds but not for 3 year-olds, the program selecting that curriculum may use it in a mixed-age grouping of 3 and 4 year-olds if documentation regarding differentiation for 3 year-olds is provided and approved. This accommodation does not apply to curricula that were state-recommended for 5 year-olds only.

- Implementing an Individually Developed Curriculum: If MSDE evaluates and accepts it, a program seeking funding may choose to implement a curriculum that it has developed individually for its own use. The curriculum must not be a commercially developed curriculum that the program has purchased.

In this case, the program must submit a technical report for acceptance by MSDE according to the evaluation process that was used to identify the list of state recommended curricula. The technical report must show the alignment of the program's developed curriculum with *Guidelines for Healthy Child Development and Care of Young Children* (birth - 3) and the *Maryland Model for School Readiness Framework and Standards for Prekindergarten and for Kindergarten* (MMSR)/ State Curriculum (SC) for prekindergarten (age 4) and kindergarten (age 5) as applicable and also alignment for pedagogy with the National Board of Professional Teaching Standards – Early Childhood Generalist. In addition, the technical report must address the professional development/training plan, assessment(s), and the research base for developing the curriculum. The forms for developing the technical report are provided by MSDE. This report must be reviewed and accepted by a MSDE ad hoc evaluation committee for its alignment with the identified standards.

- Implementing a Curriculum Developed by a Local School System (LSS)
A program seeking funding may choose to adopt the curriculum of the local school system within whose jurisdiction it is operating. It must certify and provide evidence of that curriculum's implementation.

Programs Seeking MSDE Accreditation

If a licensed early care and education program is seeking MSDE accreditation, it is suggested that the program purchase a state-recommended comprehensive curriculum, which is in support of meeting the curriculum standard for MSDE accreditation. If the program is also planning to seek state or federal funding through a grant administered by the DECD, it must choose one of the three options described above, which includes selecting a state-recommended comprehensive curriculum.

Funding the Cost of Implementing a Comprehensive Curriculum

Costs for purchasing and implementing a state-recommended comprehensive curriculum for 3, 4, and 5 year-olds may be supported by the Early Childhood Curriculum Fund. Costs for purchasing a state-recommended curricular resource for infants and toddlers (birth to age 3) and for a comprehensive curricula for 3, 4, and 5 year-olds may be supported by the outreach work of different civic organizations, such as the Lions Club, Rotary Club, and the Knights of Columbus.